

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 20 through 31.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 8, 16, and 17 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claims 4, 8, and 16 have been rewritten into independent form, including the limitations of the base claims and intervening dependent claims (for claims 4 and 8). Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Thus, claims 4, 8, 16, and 17 are believed to be in allowable condition. A check for the excess claim fee for the addition of one independent claim is included with this response.

Claim Objection - 35 USC § 1.75(c)

Claim 10 stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 4, and claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,621,214 (Sofield). Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be allowable as noted above. Claims 13, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 16, which is believed to be allowable as noted above. Thus, claims 9, 13, 15, 18, and 19 are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103

Claims 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being anticipated over Sofield, in view of US Patent No. 4,163,240 (Swinehart). Claim 10 has been amended to

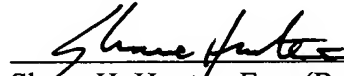
depend from claim 4, which is believed to be allowable as noted above, and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 16, which is believed to be allowable as noted above. Thus, claims 10 and 14 are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being anticipated over Sofield, in view of US Patent No. 6,675,116 B1 (Ritt). Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be allowable as noted above. Thus, claim 11 is believed to be in allowable condition.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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